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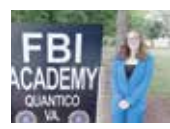
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Day School celebrates the Fourth

TURLEY PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Belchertown Day School held a parade for the residents at Christopher Heights Assisted Living of Belchertown on July 3. They paraded, sang and handed out popsicles to everyone. **See more photos on Page 12.**

Town unveils new website

Future communications discussed

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – Members of the Communications Committee presented results from a survey to the Selectboard at its recent meeting. The committee also announced the launch of the town's new website, which fully launched on Tuesday, July 10.

Findings from the survey included residents' desire for improved streaming quality of municipal meetings, a newsletter or blog providing updates on government activities, events and infrastructure projects and a cohesive communication strategy.

Communications Committee Chair Chris Martin and Vice Chair Ed Comeau spoke to the board about the online survey to understand residents' sources for information.

Overall, only 55% of survey respondents are satisfied with the town's communications.

Comeau provided context that it was a self-selected survey, rather than a randomized survey.

"For example, when we asked how do people get their information, a vast majority of people said Facebook," he said. "But also a vast majority of people responded via Facebook."

He said there was a clear desire for a newsletter about what is going on in the community.

"I can clearly understand because I think I'm one of those people who is tired of having to go here, here and here to get my information," he said. "I'd really love to get it in one fell swoop."

He said having a blog or newsletter would allow avoid problems such as informing people about Jabish Brook Middle School throughout the years-long process.

Another point from the survey was that those who use streaming through Belchertown Community Television to access meetings

Please see **WEBSITE**, page 7

School committee accepts new football equipment

BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The school committee met last week to review the appointments of new officers within executive session and review the donation of new football equipment from the Belchertown Football Association.

Chair Heidi Gutekenst held the June 25 meeting, and she was joined by Vice Chair Ruby Bansal, Secretary Dr. Amy Wilson-LaMothe, and members Natalie Santana and Lamikco Magee.

Donation of football training equipment

The Belchertown Football Association submitted a donation proposal form to donate football practice training equipment valued at \$5,000-\$8,000.

"The purpose will be to help with training the team with bet-

ter equipment, which will possibly lead to less injuries," Superintendent Brian Cameron said.

The board moved to accept the donation of the equipment.

Cards from students showing appreciation for the Acceptance Club

Cameron also announced that he received about 50 cards from students and other members of the board, sharing their appreciations and excitement for the new Acceptance Club installed in the school last year.

The students wrote that the club has had a positive influence on them, their friendships, mental health, and overall well-being at the school.

"I think it's important, because this helps everyone feel equal, so I just wanted to share," Cameron said.

Please see **EQUIPMENT**, page 3



TURLEY PHOTO SUBMITTED

Homemade candles made from locally sourced beeswax makes the perfect gift or addition to any space.

Local farmer's market kicks off the summer

BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The season for farmers markets has officially arrived, and locals can find one right in their own town on the common.

Every Sunday through Oct. 6, there will be a market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will also be two dates in the winter for markets. The market will not operate during the week-end of the Belchertown Fair.

Please see **MARKET**, page 10



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